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ALMAGEST

Thursday, October 2, 1997

LSU in Shreveport

Volume 32, Number 4

Accounting director settles in

Jennifer Ebarb
ALMAGEST

Adnan "Eddie" Samhan has been appointed Director of Accounting Services. His appointment became official on August 3.

Samhan replaces Ginnie Hem, who left because she wanted to stay home with her family. Ginnie's husband recently finished medical school and they have three children.

He received a Petroleum Engineering degree from Louisiana Tech University in May of 1996. Samhan also completed the CPA Educational Requirement Program at LSUS in May of 1990.

He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of



Adnan "Eddie" Samhan

Certified Public Accountants since 1993.

Samhan has experience in two fields: governmental accounting/auditing with the state of Louisiana and tax and management experience.

Samhan worked for the Legislative Auditor's Office in Shreveport before coming to LSUS. He per-

formed financial and compliance audits for institutions of higher learning and state agencies. He also worked for the Shreveport-Bossier Regional Technical Institute as an accountant from February 1994 to April 1995 and an evening and extension instructor from April 1993 to May 1995.

He has also worked for H & R Block as a tax preparer for all tax purposes. For three years, Samhan worked as a manager for Dairy Queen.

Originally from Palestine, "the Holy Land," he was born and raised in Lebanon. Samhan moved to North Louisiana in Summer of 1980 and has been in Shreveport since June of 1986.

Samhan is married with two children, Michael, 5 and Bethany, 2.

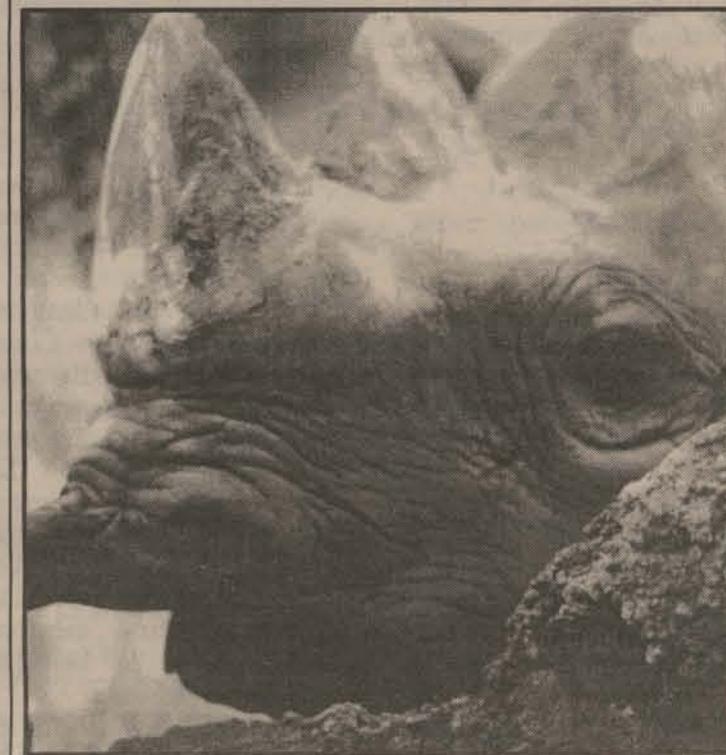


Photo by Stacey Norris

This rhino could become your friend. Now you can spend your summer in a zoo, get acquainted with exotic animals, and earn credit, all at the same time. See more wild stuff on page 10.

LEADER to develop leadership skills

Jennifer Ebarb
ALMAGEST

Dr. Gary Rush, dean of the college of education, announced the establishment of the LEADER program in a press conference on Thursday in Noel Memorial Library. Rush said the program is an innovative step in enhancing the development of leadership in Northwest Louisiana schools.

LEADER stands for Louisiana Educators, Achieving Dedication, Expertise, and Redirection. The program includes six of the Local Education Authorities (school districts) of Region VII of the Louisiana Department of Education, including Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, and Webster parishes. The program allows 40 participants from within the school sys-



Photo by Jennifer Ebarb

From left: Walter Lee, from Louisiana State board of elementary and secondary education, Jap Gullatt, Dr. Gary Rush, dean of the college of education, and Dr. James E. Foster, superintendent of Caddo Parish schools.

tems to participate in training for future principals.

The program is funded by a \$296,847 grant from the

Louisiana Department of Education's Louisiana Learn for the 21st Century Program, which provides

grants to improve classroom performance. The grant, one of three awarded in Louisiana, allows school districts to team up with universities to develop education enhancement programs. According to Rush, the LEADER program focuses on the needs of principals to become instructional leaders.

"It is a challenging job to be an instructional leader and we need to explore new ways to train them," Rush said.

Each school district selected the participants. To qualify for the program, participants must have a master's degree and have taught or served in an educational position for a minimum of five years. Seventeen participants were chosen from Caddo, eleven from Bossier, five from Webster, three from DeSoto, two from Bienville, and two from Claiborne.

The program has five components: symposia, seminars, mentorship, LEA training, and national conferences.

Nine symposia will be held during the calendar school year. The speakers will be nationally recognized authorities on education topics and will address future training needs with LSUS faculty.

Participants will be divided into groups of eight and will meet at LSUS for 24 hours during the fall and spring semesters, earning three hours of graduate credit each semester. Dr. Jack Slaybough, Dr. Lila Finney, Dr. Glen Wilkens, and Dr. Gary Rush will be the instructors.

Participants will communicate with each other and professors by e-mail and/or

Please see page 2.

LEADER continues from page 1.

news groups. According to Rush, these forms of communication will allow students to develop a constructive dialogue in response to the readings and the symposium.

"There will not be any term papers for these students. We are hoping that by using technology, we are moving with the rapidly changing environment that

impacts learning and education," Rush said.

Project LEADER's funds will pay registration fees and supply all professional reading materials for the participants.

Participants will be teamed with a principal, who will serve as a mentor during the project. According to the program, mentors will work with mentees to describe

procedures, policies, and normal practices in their school. Mentees will shadow their mentors for one school day to acquire real-world training each month. Also, they will discuss theories and practices discussed in the symposia.

Jap Gullatt, director of region VII service center, helped to initiate the program. "The mentor/mentee

component is a vital part of the program," Gullatt said. "It shows hands-on experience and staff development."

Participants will have nine days of instruction in administration requirements for their school district. Each district will implement the training in their schools.

Participants also have to attend a national conference on education, choosing from

several conferences held across the nation.

Walter Lee, from the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, said this program will set an example for the rest of the state. "This is the best effort I've seen at expanding meaningful reform at the university level to get local school systems together," Lee said.

Colleagues lend helping hand to troubled students

Brian Allen
ALMAGEST

The LSUS Colleagues is an organization designed to provide a support network for minority students at LSUS. The organization reaches out to minority students and allows them to make friends and get involved in campus life. Now Colleagues is reaching out to help some disadvantaged students through a community service project.

The Student Referral Alternative School is a school that helps middle school and high school students who have been suspended or had discipline problems realize the importance of finishing school.

It began in 1993 as a dropout prevention center funded by the state. Students that are often suspended are far more likely to dropout, so the school tries to break the cycle by keeping students in school and out of trouble.

Charter Forest, Highland Hospital, and Brentwood are all helping to participate in a program called A Touch of Prevention. Part of this program involves student mentors, which is how the members of Colleagues will serve the program.

Joyce Price, project coordinator, explained that recruiting college students to act as mentors is a crucial part of the program. The student mentors will help with schoolwork, as well as being there to help with personal problems.

"I was trying to come up with a plan to reduce our dropout rate. The high level of suspension is directly related to the dropout rate. We try to make students realize the importance of finishing school," Price said. Each mentor will be assigned a student in a program similar to the Big Brother/Sister programs, and then the project will be carefully studied and reported on. The school is funded by the state, and is Louisiana's first project of this kind.

Price said the school is still looking for mentors to serve the program. You can contact her at 636-7708. If you're interested in knowing more about Colleagues, contact Tarmara Flentroy at 635-5686.

We were invincible, or so we thought

Kathy Pratt
FEATURE

It was predicted to be the coldest day of the season, 27 degrees, in December 1994. We were celebrating a successful week of finals at the end of our first semester in college and my roommates; Christina, Liza, Jennifer, and I decided to have a party at our on-campus apartment.

It started off great with good friends, good food, good fun, and good booze. We were invincible, or so we thought, until about midnight.

At ten o'clock, my roommate, and best friend, Christina chose to take a wild adventure of mud riding with my twin sister Kelly, her boyfriend Jeff, and his best friend Randy. So they took off into what weather forecast had warned to be the first freeze of the year.

Meanwhile, my other roommates and I continued to keep the party going. Within two hours, what was once a party became sleeping quarters for about ten people who had too much to drink.

Then the phone call came. To this day my heart skips a beat and I break into a cold sweat when I am suddenly awoken by a telephone ring in the middle of the night. It was my mother. She told me that Christina, Jeff, Kelly, and Randy had been in an accident, but that Kelly and Jeff were O.K. They were taken to Highland Hospital for observations, and my dad was on his way to pick me up to take me there. Suddenly I remembered: two others were with them, Christina and Randy. I

asked if they were all right, and my mother said they had been taken to LSU Medical Center. Mom also told me not to say a word to anyone else in the apartment. Of course I did not think twice about that; I was relieved everyone was taken care of.

A few minutes later dad knocked on my door. When I saw him, I knew there was something more to this. He had tears in his eyes, which was a first for me, and I did not know what to think. We got into the car, and I asked what had happened. All he said was, "if Jeff hadn't been there, Kelly . . ." He burst into tears, and I was beyond confused.

When we got to the hospital, I ran in to see my sister. As soon as she saw me, she began crying and said, "Kathy, I know they're dead. There's no way . . ."

I did not understand what she meant, but I said, "No they were taken to LSU and they're going to be fine. I promise."

She embraced me and just sobbed while

I was trying to figure out

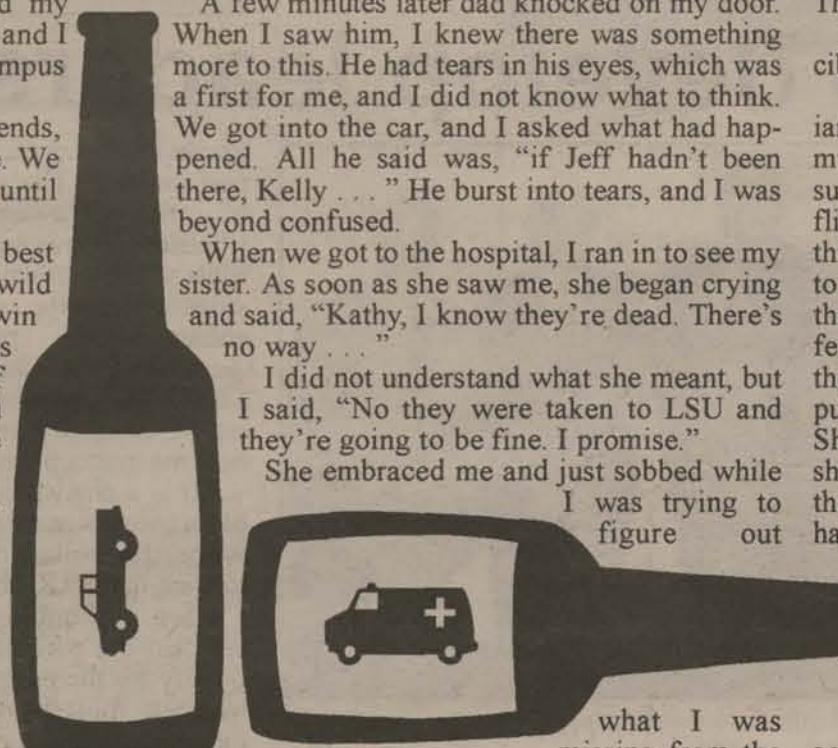
dad and felt my body go numb. He said, "Yes," in a quiet, unwilling voice.

In that waiting room I found out that my best friend in the world and Randy did not make it. That just couldn't be right. I had just promised my sister that everything was going to be fine. They went to the hospital. They had to be O.K..

But they were not O.K., and they were invincible, they were dead.

The four had gone mud riding in an unfamiliar area and they had difficulty seeing because mud was splashing across the windshield. Then suddenly, their truck was off the ground and flipped upside down into a deep ditch with about three feet of freezing muddy water. Jeff managed to squeeze through the back sliding window of the truck and reached back in for dear life and felt someone's shirt. It was Kelly's. Now with the truck cab filling with freezing water, he pulled Kelly through that same window of life. She was unconscious, but she awoke after he shook her a bit. When he tried to reach back in the window, it was too late. Christina and Randy had drowned and slipped to the floorboard of the cab where Randy could not reach them. That is why Christina and Randy were taken to a different hospital: unless one is near death or dead, he or she (both in this case) is taken to LSU.

This December it will be three years from the accident. To this day I still think how stupid we were. Drinking, driving, all the signs of fatality, yet we felt invincible. I know now that we cannot be held responsible for that event. But in some ways we were responsible: one must never believe that he or she is immortal. No one is. The lesson I learned is that life is too precious to take advantage of, so make the best of it, while at the same time thinking first.



what I was missing from the story. After I made sure Kelly was going to be fine, I went to the waiting room where I found my mother calling everyone she knew looking for Randy's family. The only person she could get in touch with was his high school coach and a close friend. I listened while mom told him about the wreck, then she looked up at my dad and asked, "Do you know for sure?" I looked at

Reopening of old library benefits whole campus

Mary Jimenez
ALMAGEST

Thirty years ago it went up along side the science building, and when the \$5 million renovation is complete on the science building, estimated at January 1999, the building that has stood empty since Noel Library was completed, will receive its own make over — \$1.5 million worth.

The old library is currently being used by the LSUS Metropolitan Band for rehearsals every Monday night. Area businesses such as Wal-Mart have used the building as a job center — allowing a place for hopeful employees to fill out applications.

Chancellor Vincent Marsala, who has been at

LSUS since the doors opened, sat on the faculty committee for the renovations. "There's a lot of space over there. We're going to get a lot of use out of this building," said Marsala, who taught classes, as large as 60 students, in the old library 30 years ago.

This is how the area might be divided: the bottom left-hand side will house the bookstore, on the right, the continuing education service with the computer learning lab. The first floor will also be shared by the LSUS Agricultural Extension, who currently has two offices in Bronson Hall.

The computer science department will take over the second floor with sever-



Almagemst file photo

Its lonely days are soon over: The old library building will accommodate a new group of people and activities. Old library building was the first to rise along with the science building from the old cotton field in mid 1960s.

al specialized classrooms and computer labs for students, which will include a general-use computer learning center for students. Additional space will go

to KDAQ (Red River Radio), the local National Public Radio affiliate, and also Pioneer Heritage, who will be given space in which to secure their artifacts.

The UC and Bronson Hall will then have free space to work with and expand.

In Bronson Hall, the fine arts department can finally spread their wings throughout the entire first floor.

And an idea for the bookstore: space left in the UC, is to build a formal banquet room to be available for faculty and students.

There has been talk of a day care, but Marsala said the school does not currently have the money to contend with that issue.

Campus headed for change

Mary Jimenez
COLUMN

At the turn of the century, where will you be? Even though it is less than three years away, if you are still walking the halls of education, LSUS may look quite different, and offer up much more than you are getting now.

First, let's dispel the use of the label, "old library." After renovation and additions, the new building will have a smorgasbord of uses. So for the sake of simplicity, I believe a name such as "Marsala's Mall" or simply, "The Mall," will work.

Students in the year 2000 will use

the latest technology for research, and there won't be any lack of computers for learning. More interesting than the changes the science building and "The Mall" will bring, are the changes being made around the school.

Students will soon have at their very near disposal: Willis Knighton Medical Center, Wal-Mart Supercenter, restaurants, and soon a 17-screen theater.

There's been trouble in the past acquiring funding for athletic programs, day care, and there has been a lack of interest in campus activities. All of this can be

traced to the demographics of the campus — most students are commuters.

The new changes will be enticing to students who live at the University Court Apartments, and I believe their numbers will grow. This is good for the school. More students on campus means more activity on campus, means students wanting to stay on campus, means more money staying on campus, means an argument for more funding.

No independents have bid for space at the school, again because of low student population. But who knows — with the surrounding area growth students may possibly see the "golden arches," a bagel shop, or a combination of fast food chains right there in the UC.

SGA meeting focuses on students involvement

Lori Whaley
ALMAGEST

This week's Student Government Association meeting focused on getting the student body more involved in campus affairs.

SGA President Bridgette Wilder expressed her hopes that more students will take part in the election. She encouraged all students to vote. This ensures your opinions will be heard through the senators and officers elected.

Other orders of business in the meeting were future discussions of the proficiency exam and the new technology fee installed this year.

The SGA will also discuss the length of the com-

mon hour and whether it should be changed.

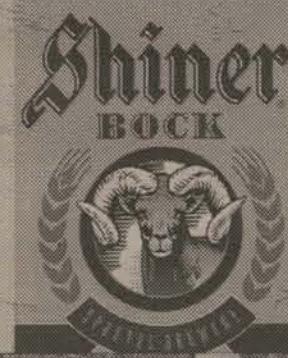
Wilder also said that students should come to the SGA meetings to voice their concerns. If that student cannot attend a meeting and would like to voice an opinion on a campus issue, Wilder can be contacted at 688-3488.

The Student Government elections will be held Oct. 13-18. Ballots will be mailed to all students with a current address on file with the administration. To place your votes, call 798-LSUS and follow the instructions given.

SGA meetings are held every Monday at 6:30 pm in the Caddo room of the University Center.

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to keep the campus informed

(al-ma-gest") n.

:an. of several great early medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge (as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's Greek work on astronomy).

—Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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Take charge; vote

Every semester, the student body has a chance to shape how this campus is run and often only a few students take advantage of it. Over the past few years, only 30 or so students have voted per election, with a few notable exceptions, like the athletic fee referendum last semester. There are several good reasons to vote this semester and keeping your fees low is just one.

How many times have you heard people say, "well, nobody asked me," after the new technology fee was put into effect? Well, that's because no one asked those people. No one asked me. And in all likelihood, no one asked you either.

The SGA decided on its own that the fee would be good for LSUS. The bill was presented to the SGA in the last meeting of the spring semester. Mike Modica, SGA vice-president, said there wasn't enough time to ask the student body's opinion, so they had to decide for us.

This happens more often than most people realize, although the issues aren't always so serious, but that's what we elected these senators to do. We elected them to think for us as a whole.

I'm not arguing that the technology fee was a bad idea. In fact, if the money is used correctly, it will benefit the entire university.

But, everyone on this campus has to understand that you can't complain about the decisions if you don't take the time to elect people who will represent all students' interests well. So vote or don't complain, when no one asks you.

Kirk Dickey, editor

LETTERS POLICY

The Almagest requests your reactions through Letters to the Editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your class and major field of study.

Letters should be submitted to *The Almagest* office, BH 344, by noon on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Almagest reserves the right to edit letters.

Body image; part one

Jerry Scott
COLUMN

If there is some essential element that separates us from the rest of the animal kingdom, it definitely escapes my memory at the moment and has nothing to do with the subject at hand.

Animals do it, people do it and even plants and bacteria do it to some degree. No, I'm not talking about having sex on a regular basis. I'm talking about grooming, dressing, pumping and tressing to make one look as good as one can look so that they can look the best they can to triumph over the cruel world outside.

It is no secret that people, as well as animals, primp, preen, pedicure and plaster to accentuate their natural and hereditary assets. Some do it just to make themselves presentable so as not to be mistaken for Quasimoto, the *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Body image is defined not as a person's perception of themselves but rather society's perception of the individual based on clothing, hair, facial features and physical prowess.

Body image to the individual consists of all the small details and nuances that attracts one person to other people. The individual has to concentrate on the hair, nails, eyes, and the like, to meet society's expectation of the body image icon that is equivalent to both male and female supermodels.

Clothing has to be part of the foundation of the body image right after the physical body itself. Society has exploded with all the fashion labels and has driven us all into a clothing frenzy. Everyone from the preschooler to the business professional is sporting fashion lines from CK to Versace, from Hilfiger to Nike and everything in between. No matter whether you're white or black, fat or thin, hip or hype, you have to have anything to worry

couple of pieces in your wardrobe with these labels or insignias branded upon them.

Some designers have become so bold as to shower a piece of clothing with their names and logos. We need not mention any names.

In this corner
we

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who's the fairest of them all?*

Whether or not you subscribe to name brands or not when it comes to defining your body image is totally up to you, but ask yourself why you do it. Is it for acceptance into a certain group or is it because you can afford it and you believe that brand names are the best names? Whatever the reason may be, just make sure that the body image you portray to society is not one that society let you borrow from their closet of clothing clones.



have baseball caps, jeans, shirts, backpacks, tennis shoes, cologne, watches, suits, coats. (Oh my God! I just ran out of breathe.) The list of brand names in clothing our body image goes

on forever.
Maybe one day soon they will come out with Tommy Hilfiger lunch boxes and briefcases for society at large.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have those who consider themselves nonconformists and who deny labels outright. Little do they know that they couldn't be more conforming if they tried any harder. Their group wears a plethora of tattoos, sport jeans that are five sizes too big and tie-dye t-shirts and don't bother to comb their hair. In this corner we have all manner of body piercing, tattoos, rag jeans, dreadlocks, orange hair color, mohawk haircuts and the like.

Unlike the other list, this list is well defined and only calls for the outrageous. If you fit into this clothing category, you don't have anything to worry

about, if indeed this is your personality manifesting itself. If not, you may need to seek counseling.

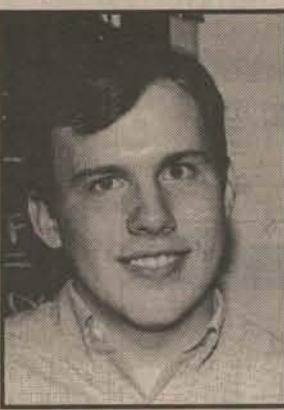
When trying to define your body image in buying clothing, one rule of thumb is to get the opinion of a brutally honest friend to tell you how you look. Don't just put it on and say, "Now this is me." Some examples might be a fat woman trying to wear "Daisy Duke" shorts or a wrap skirt when she knows she has more to wrap than the average woman, or a fat man trying to wear a skin tight body shirt when he knows that he is too much of a man for that shirt.

We just can't leave out those thin and less than curvaceous women who try to wear a body suit but who just don't have enough body to make the cut or those guys who wear skin tight jeans that cut off the flow of blood and oxygen to the brain. I'm not pointing a finger of blame or ridicule at any one group, just holding up a mirror to help you define and portray your body image and not settle for a recycled one.

Polar Points

What do's and dont's should be included in sex education?

By Mark Anderson



ENGAGING IN PREMARITAL SEX has always held its fair share of risks. However, today it is possible to die from having sex. Therefore, the message that we send to teenagers about sex is very important. There are those that favor teaching everything from condoms to masturbation in sexual education classes, in hopes of persuading students to "protect" themselves from the ills of promiscuous sex. However, the only way to curb the rising numbers of teenage pregnancies and HIV cases is to promote abstinence.

The strongest case that can be made for abstinence is that it works. In fact, it has never failed. Can we say the same for condoms or other contraceptive devices? I think not. Yet, still, we ponder over how to protect kids from STDs and from pregnancy.

A common misconception about teenagers is that they are going to have sex no matter what we tell them, so we should educate in order for them to "protect" themselves. The truth is that not every teenager is engaging in premarital sex. Millions of teens and young adults, including my girlfriend and I, have participated in True Love Waits, a program that promotes the idea of sexual abstinence before marriage. Puritanical you say? Maybe so, but I can guarantee you that I will not become a father before marriage or contract a sexually transmitted disease.

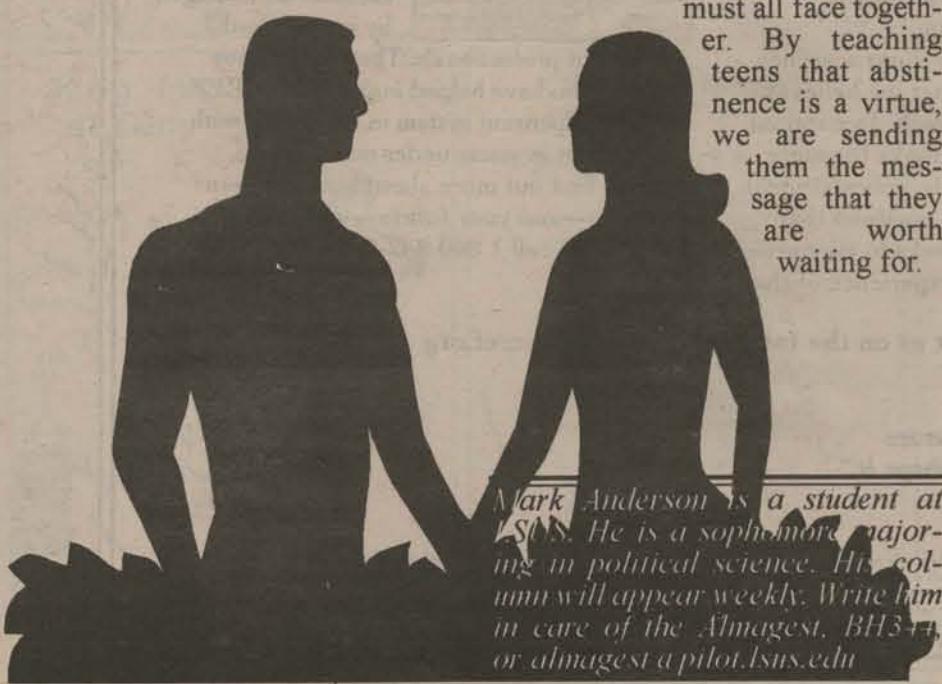
Teaching our kids that having sex is OK if a contraceptive is used is dangerous. For we are learning that "safe" sex isn't safe after all. In fact, it has been reported that the condom failure rate can be as high as 20 percent. Nevertheless, we continue to tell kids that the condom can be a successful protector against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Why — in hopes that they will be part of the successful 80 percent?

Besides the dangerous physical repercussions related to premarital sex, there can also be tremendous emotional consequences as well. I have encountered many people, who after having had sex, before marriage, came to regret it. Sex was a part of life that they literally could not wait to experience. Yet, when all was said and done, they were left with even more longing and want than before.

Promoting abstinence would improve the self esteem of students. Teenagers would be taught that we, as human beings, have control over our bodies, and that it is not meant for us to indulge in every desire and temptation we face. However, by teaching that it is only natural to engage in premarital sex, we are placing ourselves on the same level as animals.

We owe it to teenagers to teach abstinence in sexual education classes. We are creating an entire generation of hormone enraged teens with a false sense of security. Protecting our kids from the dangers of premarital sex is not a conservative or liberal issue. It is a human concern that we

must all face together. By teaching teens that abstinence is a virtue, we are sending them the message that they are worth waiting for.



Mark Anderson is a student at LSUS. He is a sophomore majoring in political science. His column will appear weekly. Write him in care of the Almagest, BH344, or almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

By MaKayla J. Sibley



THE MOVIE IS OVER and it's way before curfew. The moon shines magically over her bosom as he reaches over, hoping she will return his kiss. The moment begins so innocently, so new and exciting. Twenty minutes later the car is fogged up, you don't know where that bra went, and the cops are pounding on the window.

1950 or 1990? Both. Sex has been happening all over the place, with everyone, everywhere, for all time. Lust, emotions, and loaded hormones have been around even longer and has affected everyone alive over ten years old since time began.

But let's not talk about sex. Let's just keep fogging up the windows with our eyes closed and bolted. These sort of things don't happen unless you're married or you're a tramp. That's what the conservative, closed-minded, skirt to the ankle parents believed when they approved an abstinence-only sex education curriculum.

Kids are having sex. They had sex in 1950. They had sex in 1930. The only difference is that these same kids dying of sexually transmitted diseases forced sex out into the open. USA Today proved through a survey that 8 out of 10 kids have sex before age twenty. That's 80 percent. Don't even think your kids are part of the twenty percent simply because "you raised them better". It happens. Sex is a normal, healthy, biological thing to do that puberty, adolescence, and hormones initiate. It is neither filthy, nor dirty, but something quite natural. But sex is a huge responsibility with large repercussions. It is very emotional. Kids don't seem to understand this second part because all they have ever been told is the first part: don't.

Abstinence only programs do not teach about condoms, which could save their lives. We are not talking about just preventing births anymore, but about preventing deaths. What if your child contracts AIDS from having sex because they were not wearing a condom? They were never taught about condoms. What if that child dies? Are you ready to accept partial blame for your child's death because you were too afraid to teach your children about other options they might possibly explore?

Let's get our heads out of the sand. Abstinence-only sex education programs were proven not to be the slightest bit effective in a 187,000 young adult study. Sex should be taught in the home, but let's face it, some parents are not going to do it. And even those who do teach it in the home, only bring up the subject if a question is asked, or they stay very analytical about sex and don't touch on emotions. Children are with their peers and at school eight hours a day. That's more than they are with their parents. If someone doesn't give these kids the right information, then their friends will. And this information usually sounds something like, "french-kissing will make you pregnant" or "if you do it standing up you can't get a STD".

We always try to provide the best for our kids, starting early with immunizations and not talking to strangers. Why should we stop giving our best when they become teenagers? And if we teach our kids not to steal, or not to lie, at an early age, then why wouldn't we start teaching sex information at an early age? Sex-education rooted in fact works. It teaches about condoms, diseases, date rape, and the option of saying no. Studies have proven courses such as this do have a lasting impact. Pretending that talking about sex in a real manner will cause kids to have sex themselves, is like never talking about war means it won't happen. It is all just hiding from the truth like cowards, hoping it will go away.

Kids are going to have sex. It's a fact of life. You can't change it. They are going to experiment with things they don't know about out of curiosity. They are going to get caught up in the heat of the moment and not know how, or even why, to stop. Let's stop being holier-than-thou for a moment and be real. A lot of kids are not going to wait for marriage, especially since people are getting married later in life now. Would we send our children onto the battlefield unarmed? Do they deserve to possibly die because they had overpowering hormones? If you think yes because she "was a tramp" or "they shouldn't have been doing that anyway", then, my friend, you are one sick puppy. These kids need our guidance, and love, not our "I told you so's".

MaKayla J. Sibley is a student at LSUS. She is a junior majoring in political science. Her column will appear weekly. Write her in care of the Almagest, BH344, or almagest@pilot.lsus.edu



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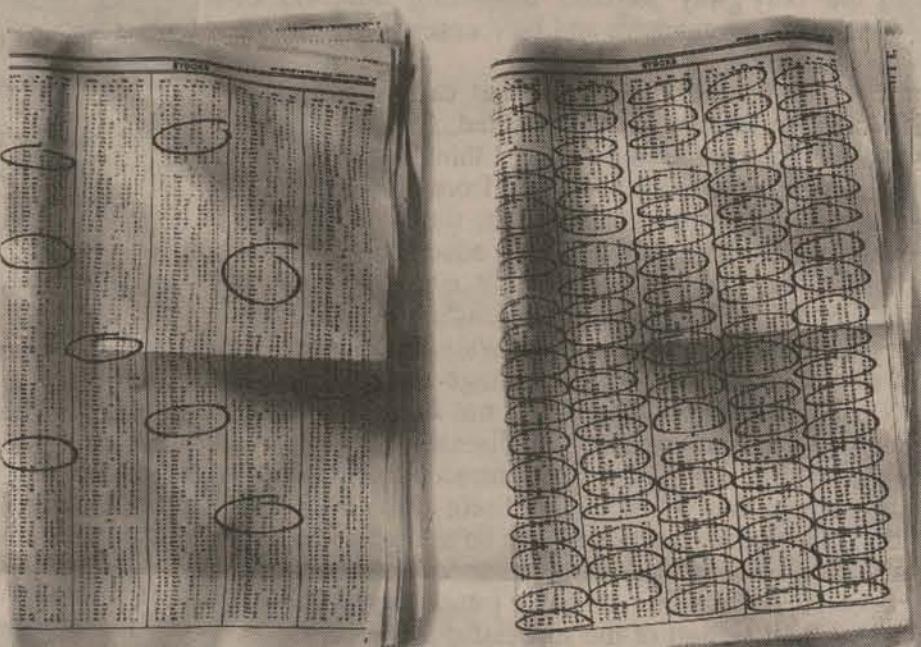
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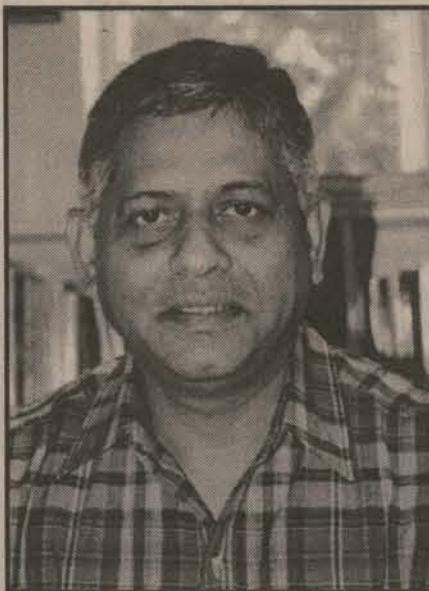
*The total returns shown for CREF variable annuity accounts represent past performance. Total returns and the principal value of investments in the accounts will fluctuate, and yields may vary. Upon redemption, your accumulation units may be worth more or less than their original price. Investment results are after all investment, administrative, and distribution expenses have been deducted. **These accounts are available for Retirement Annuities subject to the terms of your institution's plan. They are available for all Supplemental Retirement Annuities. ***Based on assets under management. CREF certificates are distributed by TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2733, ext. 5509, for a prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

MEET YOUR TEACHER

Mary Jimenez
ALMAGEST

Dr. Sura P. Rath

- Professor of English, Chair, Department of English.
- Ph.D. Texas A&M University
- Family: wife, Manju; two sons: Siddhartha, Gautam
- Hobbies: writing, reading, gardening, traveling.
- Upper level specialties: Theory and Practice of Literary Criticism, Literature of the South.



Soothing music plays in the background as Dr. Sura P. Rath works. He takes down a book from one of his several shelves, and places it gently on the table, just as the other books look like they too have been handled careful-

ly, each one resting on the shelves as if they were all first editions.

The book is titled, *Flannery O'Conner, New Perspectives*, edited by Rath and Mary Neff Shaw. The book was published in 1996, and Rath is currently working on another book,

also based on O'Conner's work.

After leaving his home country of India in 1975, Rath went to Tulane University, and then to Texas A&M. It was in graduate school that Rath became interested in, and then fascinated by the work of the famous Georgia author. His fascination has led him on a 15-year journey with Southern literature and O'Conner.

While at Texas A&M, Rath wrote a book review column, and now has been asked by *The Times* to contribute to their new Sunday section titled, "Books." His first column appeared last week.

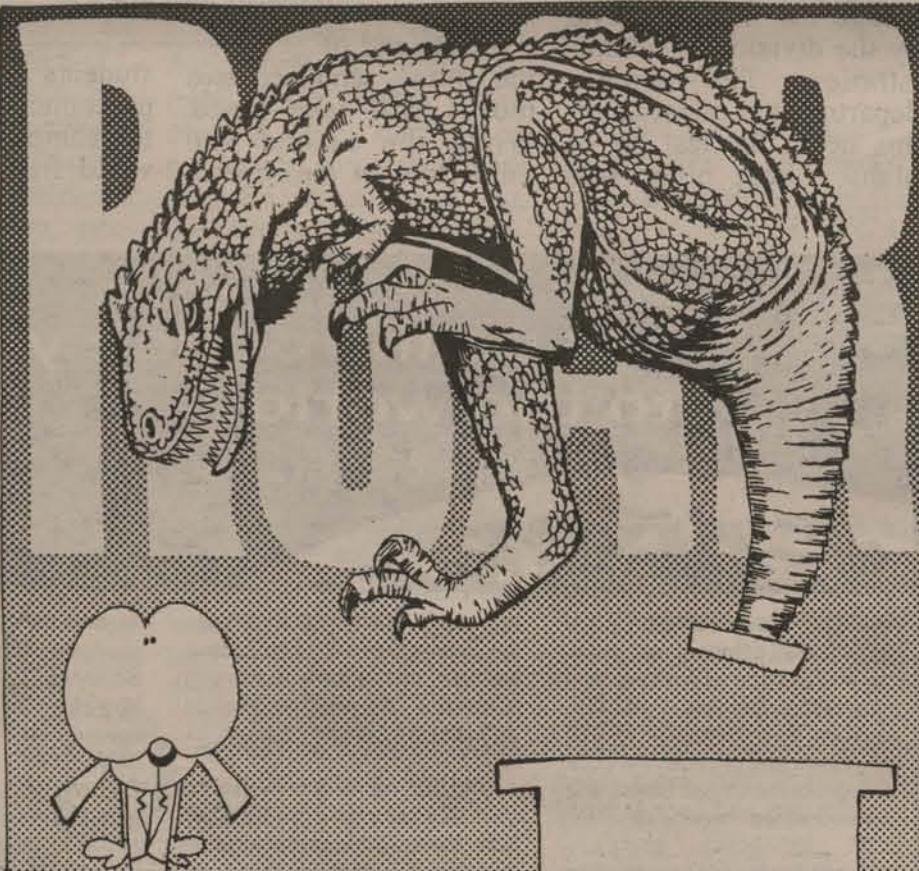
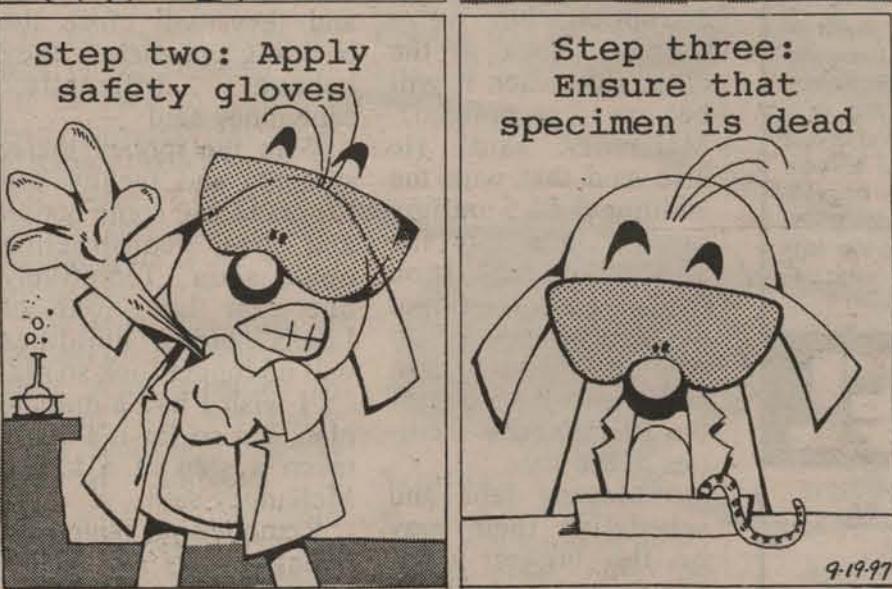
When Rath moved to Shreveport in 1985, he queried *The Times* about a possible book-review section and got no response.

"I told Frank May (the editor of the section), when he called week before last, 'You're coming to me 12 years later,'" said Rath, laughing lightly at the irony. "Even if it's 12 years later, I think it is a good idea for the local newspaper."

As well as writing books, and book reviews, Rath wrote a grant which brought \$54,000 to the new Learning Resource Lab. Together with eight computers from a grant professor Paul Sisson of the math department wrote, the lab has a total of 28 computers for student use.

For now, Rath is content to continue his teaching and writing and together with his wife, work a large garden that provides hard-to-find vegetables all winter long.

ROOFUS © BY BRAD CAMPBELL



Science building make-over worth the trouble

Mary Jimenez
ALMAGEST

GOOD THINGS come in big packages. At least the science department hopes so. They're about to get a package the size of about \$5 million worth.

Dr. Alfred McKinney, dean of the college of sciences, said dates are tentative but if the schedule does not change, renovation will start on the first floor of the science building for the spring 1998 semester. The project may be finished by the spring of 1999.

On the top of McKinney's credenza lays a 4-inch thick set of rolled-up blue prints. Beside them is a 4-inch thick 8 1/2 X 11 book. These are the plans for the renovation of the 30-year-old science building.

Right now, a copy of the plans is in Baton Rouge for final approval by the division of administration. The science department is counting on this being the last set of plans. Three other sets

have already been passed over.

With an O.K. on the plans, contractors will be asked to make bids. Before the spring 1998 semesters starts, faculty and student volunteers will be asked to help move contents of most offices and classrooms to the first floor of the old library — the second floor will not be used.

Some faculty, probably those in computer science, will be temporarily moved to Bronson Hall for the classes beginning January 1998.

At the end of the spring semester, two moves will take place. While the second and third floor of the science



Almagem file photo

The science building rose next to the old library some 30 years ago. Classes were held both on the second floor of the old library and in science building. Now the building is facing its first make-over to update the science laboratories and classrooms. The old library next door, and Bronson Hall will hold some of the classes during the restoration.

students and faculty are piecemealed throughout the campus in space provided from other depart-

ments, the first floor will be moving back into their refurbished home.

Classrooms, labs, and offices will be emptied, while some of the huge dinosaur equipment will be discarded. Also, McKinney was told that parts of the second and third floor will still be useable during this time, so some classes may remain in parts of these floors during the year.

"It's going to be a disruption, but we're trying to look at the other side when it will be completed," McKinney said. He also said that with the additional \$1.5 million funding, added to the \$3.5 million renovation from the National Science Foundation to redo the research labs, LSUS will have one of the best science facilities in the state.

Moving labs and scheduling them may be the biggest challenge. Not only from the standpoint of mov-

ing delicate equipment, but where and when they are held. There was talk about moving them to other schools, but logically this would not work, so other solutions have been considered. Some labs may be delayed, or some may be in compressed time frames. For instance, labs that run in series may be held during the same semester, using just half the regular time.

"There will have to be some giving," McKinney said.

McKinney echoes the feelings of Chancellor Vincent Marsala, who says that students' diploma time-line should not be changed. "It's not fair to the student to hold up their progress because of a building renovation," Marsala said. Marsala also said that they will work with problems on a case by case basis.

There will be times, possibly a week at a time, that no one will be in the building. This will be during the removal of asbestos, which currently does not pose a health threat.

McKinney was assured by the architect that the asbestos in the ceiling of the 30-year-old building is stabilized and is not dangerous until it is removed. The doors will only reopen when all traces or vapors are gone.

"The architects told me there is no danger, the asbestos is not active now and they will close the building whenever they believe differently," McKinney said.

With the money there, students and faculty can expect to see some action and hear construction noise soon. Tentatively one year later, one of LSUS' oldest buildings will no longer look so old.

"I wish I had a miracle plan, but so far it's being taken a step at a time," McKinney said.

Remodeling plans for the old library will follow the completion of the science building.

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**PROGRAMMER
TRAINEE**

Celebrating LSUS' 30th Anniversary Administration approval of rights bill in doubt

By Keenan Gingles

His first document now a reality, SGA constitution writer David Towns may be facing a major hurdle in getting his newly proposed student bill of rights adopted.

That hurdle could come in the way of administration-faculty committees. Key figures in the SGA have voiced doubts of administration sanctioning, but have promised to fight if it is rejected.

A separate entity from the constitution, the bill of rights, according to David Towns, "will put the students in their rightful place in the academic community."

Towns said that copies of the proposed document will be distributed to students Wednesday and Thursday. Tentatively scheduled is one week of debate set for Monday through Friday and students will vote on it Oct. 14-18. During the week of debate, students and SGA officials will talk over the proposed bill.

Containing 12 articles, the bill of rights is a reaffir-

mation of those guaranteed in the United States Constitution specially adopted to fit the needs of students, Towns said.

The bill of rights was presented to Tony Sanders, SGA president, for his consideration this week by Towns. Sanders said that certain provisions would have to be altered in wording or deleted entirely.

The tentative document that Sanders is studying protects:

— Freedom of classroom expression. "It shall be the explicit right of each student to express personal beliefs in discussion relevant to the course of study without fear of reprimand, provided that the expression of belief does not disrupt the orderly conduct of the class."

— Freedom of out of class expression. "Students shall have the right to publish and disseminate their views, on or off campus, free from intimidation of censorship."

— Freedom of assembly. "Students shall have the right to organize, to assemble and participate, in orderly, non-violent

demonstrations on campus."

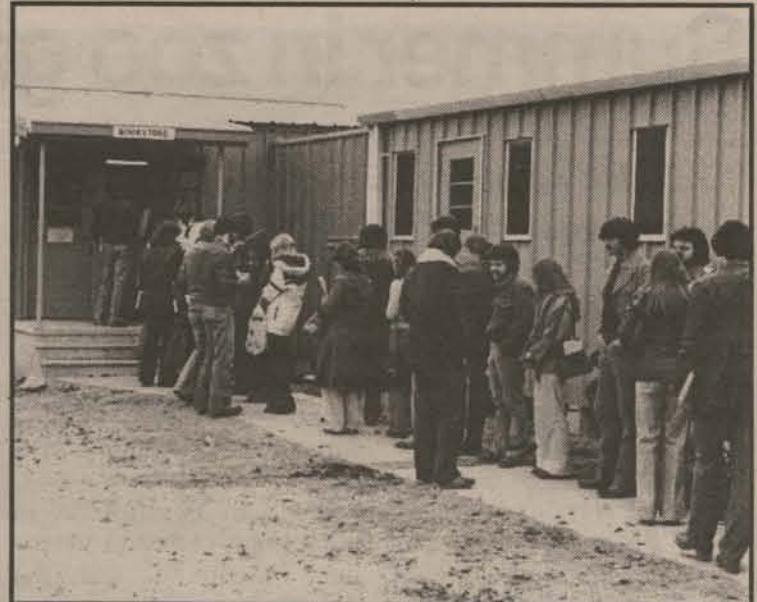
— Freedom to invite and hear speakers. "It shall be the right of the student to invite and hear speakers and or entertainers of their choice on subjects of their choice without administrative interference or reprisal."

— Equal representation on student-faculty committees. "It shall be the right of the student to be equally represented with the administration on committees affecting the pursuit of knowledge and the attainment of higher education."

— The right to privacy. "The student shall have all the rights of privacy guaranteed any United States citizen, and shall not surrender these rights by becoming a member of the academic community."

— Freedom to examine personal records. "It shall be the right of the student to inspect any and all records pertaining to him."

— Freedom in off-campus activities. "No rule or regulation of this institution shall apply to a student's off-campus activity, provided that he does not pro-



Almagest file photo

There were days in the history of this institution when students had to stand in line outside the bookstore in a chilling January weather (in their bell-bottoms) before they could shed their last pennies for books of greater knowledge.

fess to represent the University."

— Freedom against double jeopardy. "Under no circumstances shall a student be put in double jeopardy by the University."

— Right to petition. "It shall be the right of the student to petition."

— Protection of right to due process. "It shall be the right of the student being charged with violating a university regulation, to have the right to counsel, to confront and cross examine witnesses, to records of the

hearing, and to appeal beyond the hearing board."

— Unenumerated rights. "No student shall be denied the rights guaranteed him by the United States Constitution. No action by the university shall be employed to impair these rights which are thus guaranteed."

Author was the editor of the *Almagest*. The original article was published in the *Almagest*, Oct. 4, 1974, Vol. VIII, No. 6.

SPORTS

Pilots' fall baseball off to a great start

Brian Allen
ALMAGEST

If one was to grade the Pilots on Fall Baseball 101, it'd be hard to justify giving them less than an A. After a doubleheader split with Louisiana College this past weekend, the team is 3-1 with a batting average of .430.

The team has had no problem putting runs on the board, winning games by counts of 15-13, 9-1, and 8-2. The team's only loss was a 10-1 blowout to Louisiana College in which many Pilot starters sat out to give the coaching staff a look at the younger players.

Pitching has also been a

bright spot in this short season. In the final game of the doubleheader, Louisiana College was held scoreless until the final inning.

This

There may be another date scheduled with the Mariners before season's end, but that hasn't been decided yet. It would most likely be Saturday, Oct. 18. You can definitely

The deepest roster in the history of Pilot baseball may still be growing as more junior college players take a serious look at our program. Coach Kit Laird said he expects two pitchers to join the team at the semester's end.

If baseball minds can agree on anything, it's that you can never have

had some starters give us great innings this past weekend, and we're looking forward to getting everything finished for fall."

But the season's end won't bring an end to the hard work for these athletes. Laird has instituted a workout program with weight training, swimming, and pitchers will still be throwing.

"With baseball or any other sport, it's year-round conditioning," he said.

Again, the next game is this Saturday at 11 a.m. against the Shreveport Mariners. Admission is, as always, free to students with a valid ID.

Saturday at 11 a.m., the Pilots will test their guns against the Shreveport Mariners, an older group of local baseball players.

see the Pilots at the CABOSA Soccer Tournament on Oct. 11-12 on the H.P.E. building grounds, where they'll be selling concessions to raise money.

enough pitching. Laird said he has been impressed with his hurlers so far: "The one thing I'm really pleased with is our pitching. We

Summer in zoo gives 'hands on' experience

"You don't realize how big they [elephants] are until you're right up next to one"

"You can study and study, but until you get out and experience it you don't really know"

Amy Mercer
ALMAGEST

MOST PEOPLE, at one time or another, will visit a zoo. They will watch lions and elephants and rhinos through the safety of hard metal bars. But how many people will climb into the exhibit, getting up close and personal with exotic animals?

This summer nine LSUS students did just that when they traveled to Georgia to visit the Atlanta Zoo.

Each year since 1990 a field course has been offered for 3 hours credit. Students can spend up to a month gaining hands-on experience, working with professionals and conducting research.

Most students go in two-week shifts, according to Dr. Vaughan Langman. Langman said any student may participate, the only requirement being that the student "wants to go."

Michael Moloney, a senior working on his honors thesis, participated in the field course for the

second time. He said the trip is a good learning experience.

Moloney is interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine and the Atlanta experience showed him that he is not as interested in exotic veterinary medicine as he is in medicine for domestic animals.

He was able to speak with the zoo's veterinarian and gained insight on career opportunities. He found that zoo vets are more "focused on preventative care and maintenance of the animals."

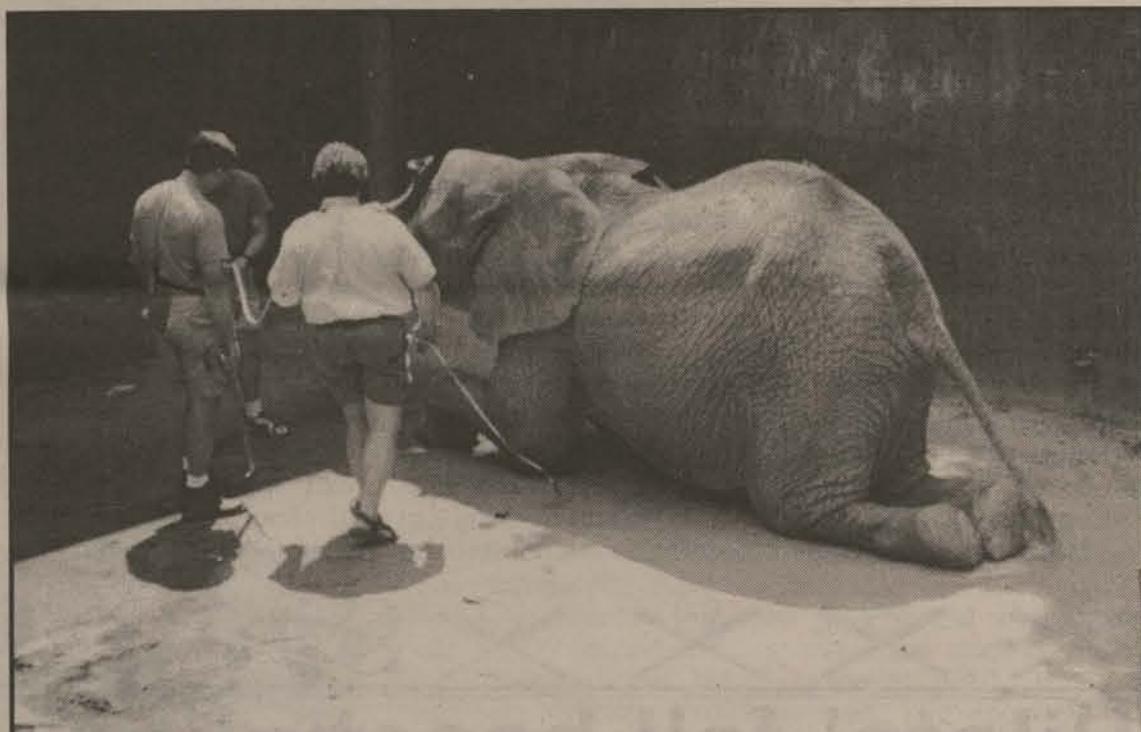
Peter Myers, a senior Biology major, wanted to gain experience in field research. Myers is interested in pursuing a career in medicine, concentrating heavily on research. He said the trip offered an opportunity to see why research is so important.

Students were given research assignments and collected data that may be published. "They're really doing something," said Langman.

Students were able to work closely with elephants, giraffes and rhinoceros. Students participated in a variety of experiments, observing the animals in the exhibit, taking surface temperatures of the animals with infrared laser guns and recording the exhibit's temperature.

Behaviorists would record the animals' actions, like when the elephant flapped his ears. Moloney said they performed a metabolic experiment with an elephant, taking a rectal temperature with a foot-long probe.

Students agreed that one of the neatest



Photos by Stacey Norris

Top: Kariba, the baby lion, gets her daily exercise under a guarding hand. She, and the rest of the lions, were not part of Dr. Langman's research, but the students got to play with the little fur ball. Below: Dr. Langman (right), Jeff, the head elephant trainer, and Mike Rowe, student from LSUS, are measuring the elephant's length. The position the elephant, Kelly, has taken is called a "stretch."

experiences of the trip was watching the elephants paint. Trainers dipped brushes into bowls filled with finger paints and then put a brush in an elephant's trunk. The trainer then said, "Paint," and the elephant would slop the paint on canvas.

It's not every day that students get

to "pet and play with elephants," said Langman.

Moloney and Myers each brought home an original elephant painting. Myers said being so

close to the elephants was

"awesome."

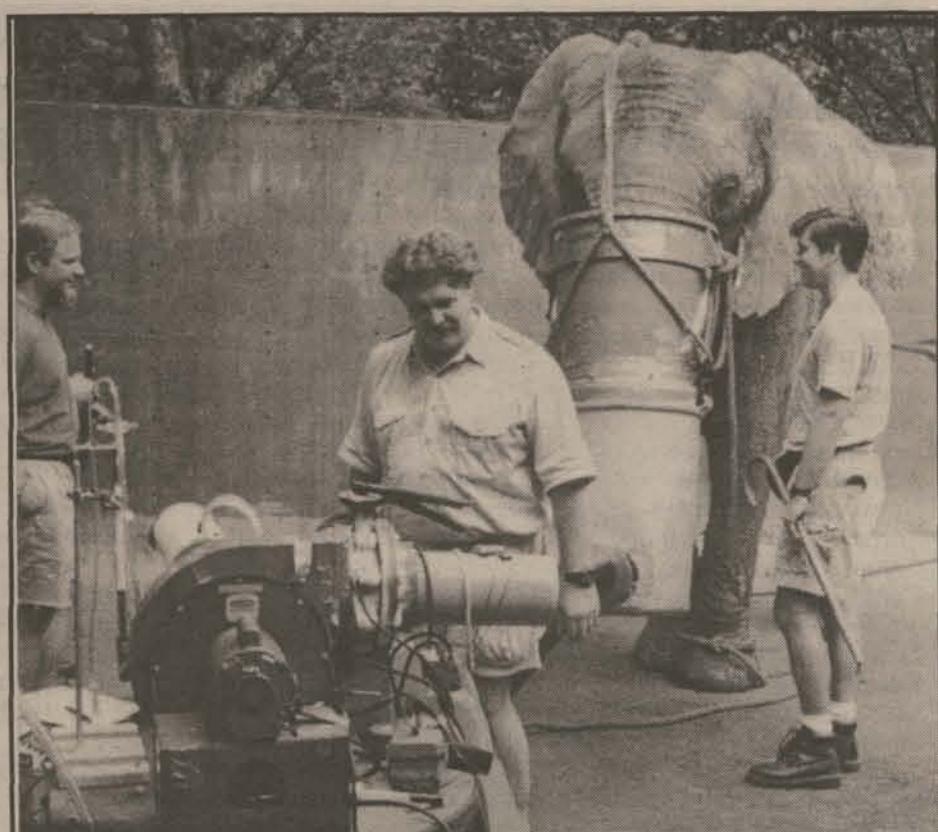
Myers spoke specifically of "Kelly," the youngest ele-

phant, who Myers laugh-

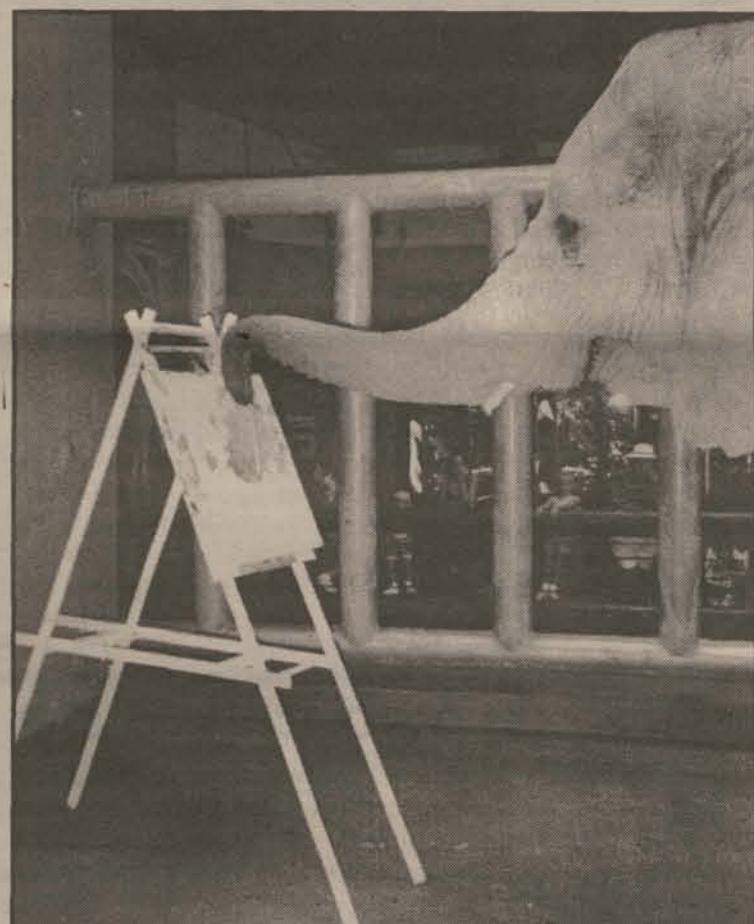
ingly referred to as a "trouble-maker."

You don't realize how big they are until you're right up next to one," said Myers.

Myers also spoke about two female lions that "acted like your cat at home." Students played with a two-week-old lion also.



Top left: Rema (left) and "B" are hiding in the shadows and sharing a private moment of tenderness. Top right: Part of an important daily routine in Dr. Langman's research. Dr. Langman (middle), Jeff (right) and Mike Rowe are measuring the oxygen consumption of the elephant. Below: Kelly, one of the three elephants, is venturing out of her habitat. Dr. Langman (right) and Mickey are looking over Kelly.



Top: Kelly loved to show her artistic qualities and was kind enough to paint abstract art as souvenirs for the LSUS students to take home with them.

"They all seem to have a lot of fun," Langman said of the students who enroll in the field course. Langman said the group who participated in August was a "really top crew."

Myers believes the course is beneficial to students interested in working hard. Stacy Norris agreed that the trip is fun, but hard

work. Students work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day and it's "stinky, dirty work."

"You get out of it as much as you put into it," Myers said. "You can study and study, but until you get out and experience it you don't really know." Myers said most students graduate from college

"book-smart, but real-life dumb." Most of the participants mentioned the benefits of taking Physiology 387 before going to Atlanta.

"If I hadn't taken it I wouldn't have had a clue [about the purpose of the experiments]," said Norris.

The field course is

offered through continuing education. Langman said he and Dr. Charles Wilson, in continuing education, are working on a trip for December. The course would take place during the break between semesters, but the dates are not yet confirmed.

Anyone interested in signing up for the trip should contact Wilson in continuing education at 797-5306. He will provide further information on specific dates and the cost for registration.



CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Japanese Cultural Society
Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues of each month.

Activities: demonstrations, discussions.

Contact: Emi Wamsley, 861-7482, BH238, BH240.

Accounting Club

Meets: 3rd Wed. of each month, noon, BE216.

Activities: Speakers, Networking, Scholarships, Volunteer Tax Assistance, Campus Activities

Contact: Accounting dept., college of business.

Louisiana Association of Educators

Meets: 3rd Thurs. of each month

Activities: Student teacher tea, speakers, bookfair, workshops, and service projects.

Contact: Denise Wilson, 742-6423

Math Club

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tues. Of each month, 10:30 a.m., BH421

Activities: Group activities, Science Olympiad, Viro-Wars Tournament

Contact: Dr. Mabry or Dr. Covington.

History Club

Meets: First Thursday of each month, at 10:30 a.m. in BH 446.

Contact: Dr. Finley or Michael Modica, 747-4736.

Chemistry Club

Meets: 1st Thurs. of each month

Activities: group

Contact: Dr. Gustavson, 797-5091.

MBA Association

Meets: Once a month

Activities: seminars with guest speakers on career planning and resume writing, social activities.

Contact: Director of Graduate Studies, College of Business.

Rotorac

Meets: Two meetings per month

Activities: Students service organization, one service project per semester, luncheons.

Contact: Dr. Paul Merkle, 797-5240

Drama Club

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10:30 a.m., BH330

Activities: Dramatic production, first hand information on auditions in local productions, volunteer work

Contact: Jorgi Jarzabek, 797-5228.

Sociology/Social Work Club

Meets: BH361

Contact: Ms. Kenna

Franklin or David O'Neal, 424-7332

Biology Club

Meets: twice a month, SC 228.

Activities: Social events, career seminars, fundraisers, community and campus service projects.

Contact: Dr. Beverly Burden, 797-5088, bbrden@pilot.lsus.edu.

Campus Ministry

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tues., 10:30 a.m., UC Pilots Room.

Activities: devotionals, programs, service projects.

Contact: Toni Bishop, 798-8837 Betsy Eaves, 869-5024.

Catholic Student Union

Meets: Twice a month

Activities: Community service, social events, fundraisers.

Contact: Joseph Holubek, 868-6104.

Student Government Association

Meets: Every Tues. 1 p.m., DeSoto.

Open to everyone.

Contact: Michael Scales, 221-7441.

Psychology Club

Meets: 1st and 3rd Thurs. Monthly, 10:30, BE342

Activities: Community service, social events, speakers, fundraisers.

Contact: Michelle Hebert, 798-4023.

Public Relations Student Society of America

Meets: Monthly, Thurs., 10:30a.m.

Activities: Volunteer work, contact with PRSA, seminars, speakers, workshops.

Contact: Kathy Smith, 798-0049.

Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi

Meets: Thursdays, 10:30a.m.

Activities: guest speakers and field trips on topics related to journalism, socials.

Contact: Rita Uotila, 795-3319, or 797-5328.

Health and Physical Ed. Club

Meets: Tues, Thurs. 10:30 a.m.

Activities: Almost Anything Goes for LSUS, judge field days for elementary schools.

Contact: Macie Foster, 797-7294.

ACJS/Lambda Alpha Epsilon

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tue

Activities: Various community activities, speakers on law enforcement ops.

Contact: Dr. Bernadette Palombo 797-5343, or Richard Georgia 797-5078.

English Club

Meets: 3rd Thursday of each month.

Activities: Booksale, guest speakers, social activities.

Contact: Dr. Thomas Dubose, BH251, or Patty Lenox, 869-3251.

International Club

Meets: 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:30 a.m., in BH242 (Foreign Language Multimedia Lab)

Activities: Guest speakers, films, travel and foreign exchange information, International Food Festival, community service.

Contact: Joe Patrick, 797-5390.

"Something Completely Different": A British Comedy Video Club

Meets: Every first Saturday of each month at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in BH101.

For anyone of any age who enjoys British comedy. No membership fee. Sponsored by the Fine Arts Dept.

Contact: David Damico, 798-6968, or ddamico@shreve.net

To make an update to the Student Organization list, contact the Almagest office, BH344, tel. 797-5328, fax 797-5132, or e-mail, almagest@pilot.lsus.edu

Week's Web Watch

By Mary Jimenez

www.music.sony.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO know Baby Face's schedule for the next couple of months? Maybe there is another group or artist that you wait for the latest CD, or wish you knew their concert schedule.

Sony's music home page, which can be found at www.music.com, will deliver more than you need to know on your favorite artist. Family, groupie addresses, history, and concert information.

Newsletters (Columbia's Daily Dish) and updates, that deliver to your e-mail address, are offered for free. Following a questionnaire they cater to your musical preferences, whether that be pop, alternative, classical, country, or new age.

The page is loaded with information for hundreds of artists, such as: clips, discography, biography, touring, photos, and artist updates. You can also go to the store and order

tapes or Cds.

On the page is a program called, RA - dio, which can be downloaded, and lets you listen as you browse (within the power of your pc).

It's enjoyable, easy to browse and informative for the music lover.

Address error:

In the last issue, Software Plus Academic was featured, which offers several software packages that are commonly used in academics. The prices are great, but require that you be a part-time student or professor. QuarkXpress requires that you be a full-time student.

The address is correctly accessed: www.spainj.com. Their toll-free number is: 800-377-9943. The correct area code and number is: (201) 288-7441.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Oct. 2 — Balancing School, Work & Family. @10:30 a.m. U.C. Theater.

Oct. 3 — SOC Meeting @ noon in Webster Rm.

Oct. 4 — Pilots Baseball Game @ 11a.m.against Shreveport Mariners.

Oct. 4 — Speed Reading Program @ 7:30 p.m. in U.C. Theater.

Oct. 4 — A British Comedy Video Club Meeting @ 6:30-8:30 p.m. in BH 101.

Oct. 7 — Black Studies/Colleagues Meeting @ 10:30 a.m. in U.C. Webster.

Oct. 7 — How to interview — workshop. @ 12:30 p.m. in AD213.

Oct. 14 — Improving Personal Relationships. @10:30 a.m. in U.C. Theater.

Oct. 14 — Résumé Writing Workshop @ 12 p.m. in ADM213.

Oct. 15 / 16 — Fall Fest: Oct.15, @ 6 - 10 p.m., Oct 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. all around the U.C. Mall.

Oct. 16 — Talking to kids...Drugs & Alcohol @ 7:30 p.m. in U.C. Theater.

BUDDY ROEMER will speak on campus

FRIDAY, OCT. 3, AT 7:30 p.m. in the

University Center Theater. His lecture,

International Investments: Risks and Rewards,

Latin America and China, is open to LSUS

students and faculty. Free admission.